

Image Credit: New York State Reading Association

## A New Lens for Service-Learning During the Pandemic

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Volunteer State Community College

# Opening the conversation







# Project Origins



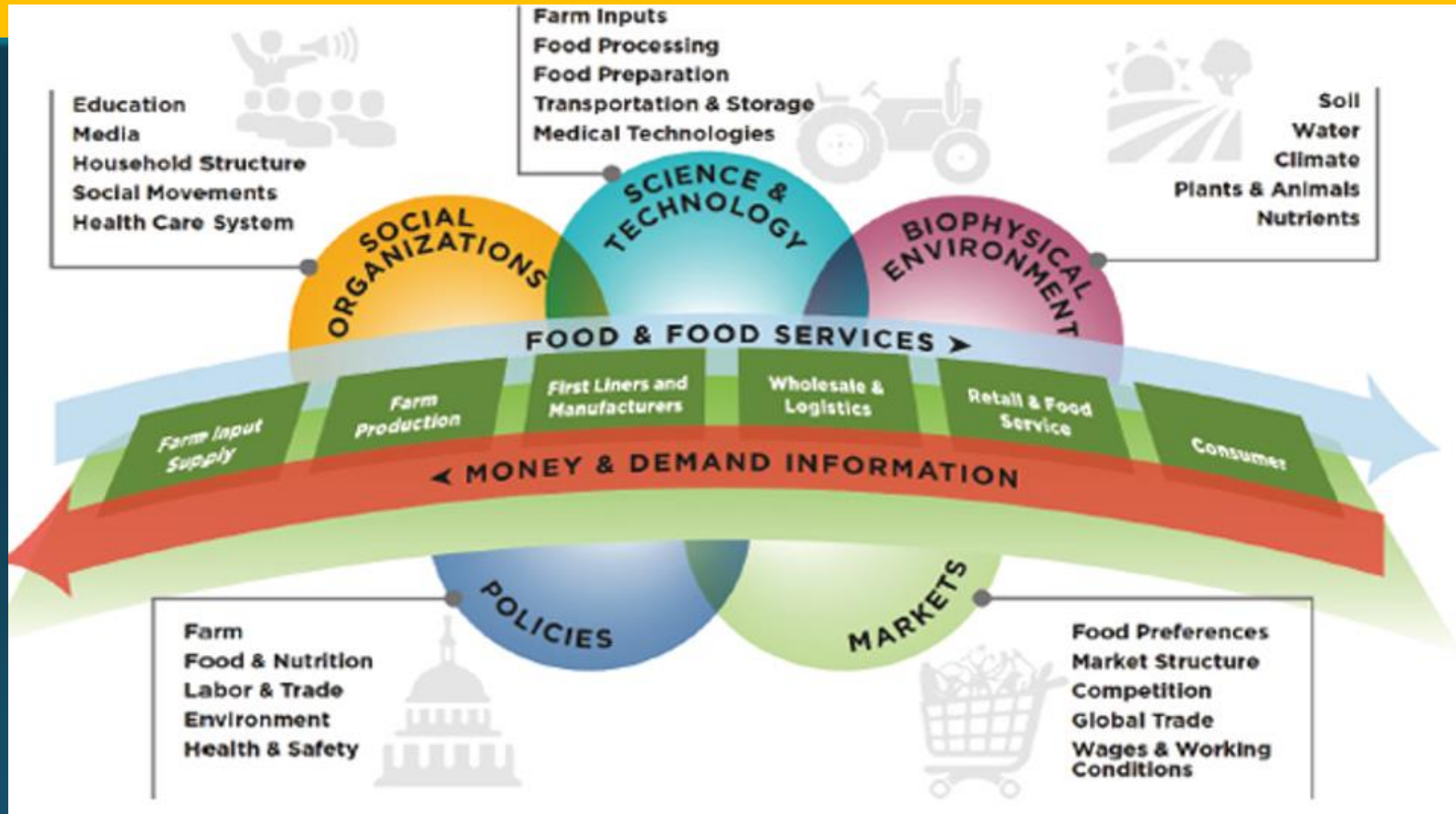
# Project 1:

## World Food Day at VSCC



- World Food Day celebrates the 1945 founding of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- Vol State's event, held as part of the college's Fall Festival, features class projects, panel/film presentations, and a food fair to share research and service projects with the campus; highlight healthy, sustainable, and diverse foodways; and connect participants to local and global resources.

# Common Intellectual Experience: Food Across the Curriculum

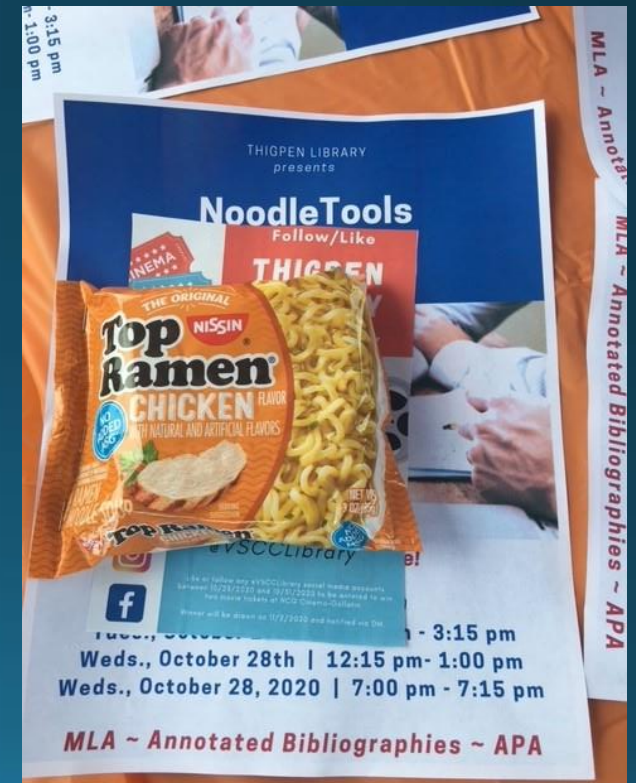
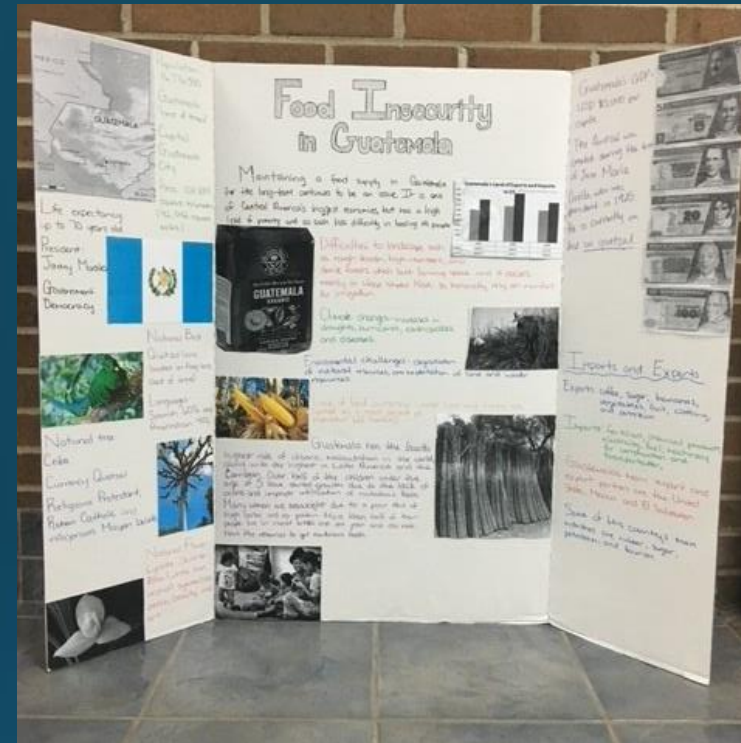
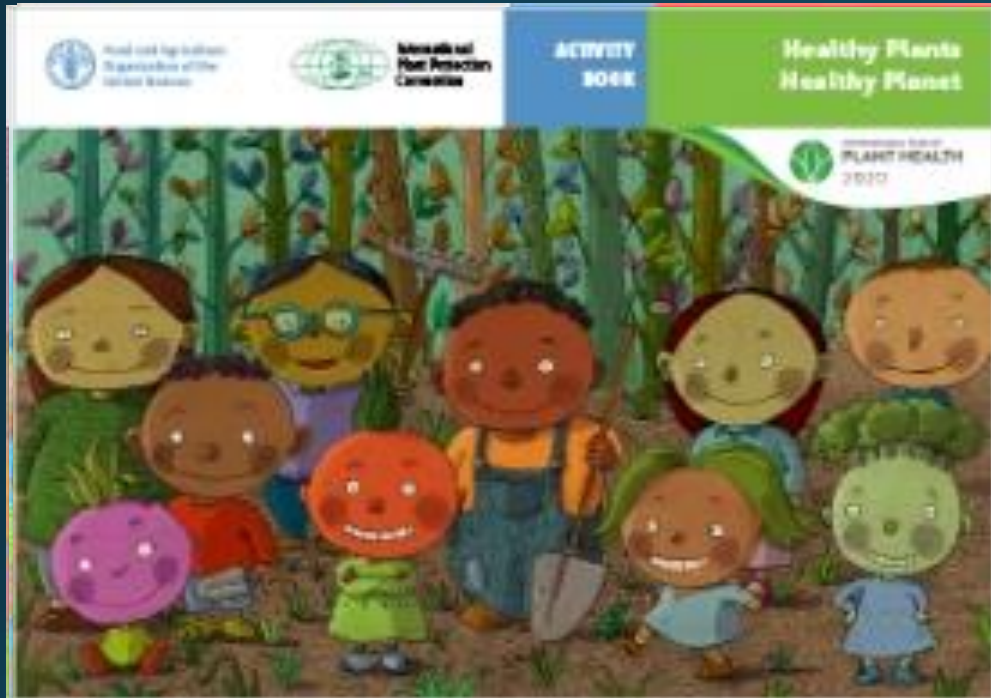




# Local Farmers plus Community Partners



# 2014-2020



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations





# Widespread Hunger

More than 3 billion people (almost 40% of the World's population) cannot afford a healthy diet per the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

In 2020, more than 60 million people in America (18% of the U.S. population) turned to food banks and community programs for help putting food on the table according to Feeding America.



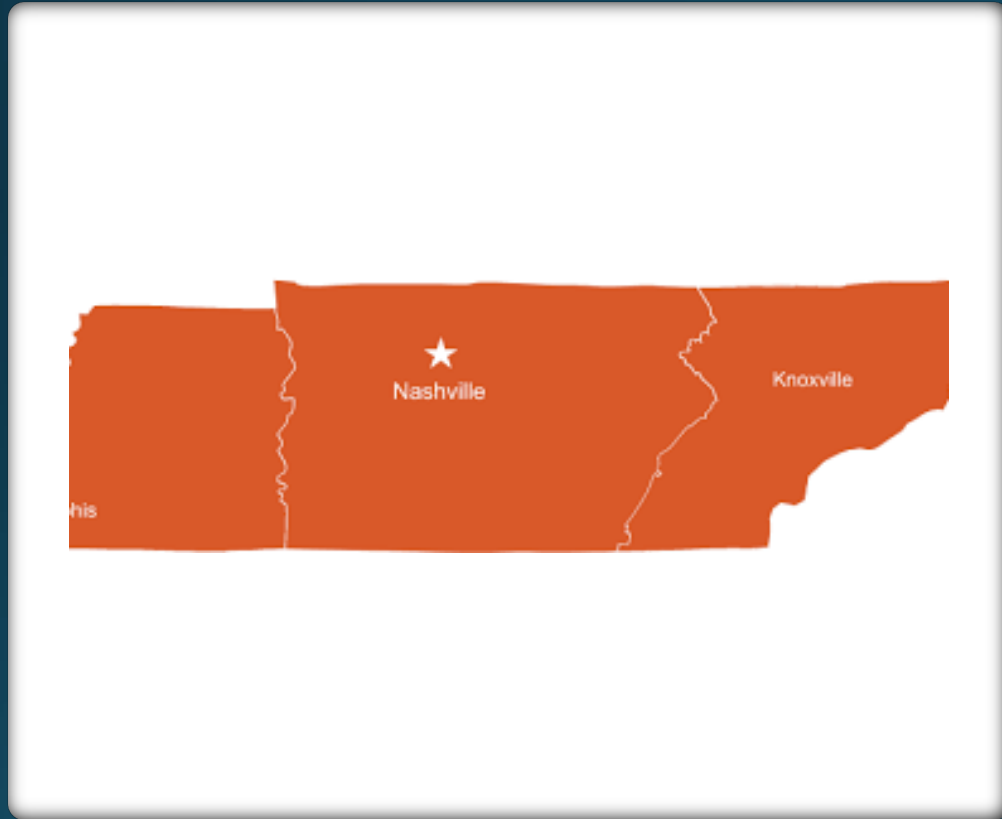


*American Journal of Public  
Health Study*  
Conducted June 23 – July 1,  
2020

- 43% of low-income adults with incomes less than 250% of the federal poverty level continued to experience food insecurity.
- Among households in which one member lost a job or income, 59% were food insecure.
- Among households in which more than one person lost a job or income, 72% were food insecure.



# Tennessee Health Child poll by Vanderbilt Center for Child Health in December 2020



The number of uninsured children in Tennessee has more than doubled since 2019, and 2 in 5 children live with food insecurity.



# How did we respond in the United States?

- Emergency food systems (Ex. food banks, school meals, SNAP)
- Stimulus payments (\$1200 per adult and \$500 per child)
- Unemployment benefits (extra \$600 per week)

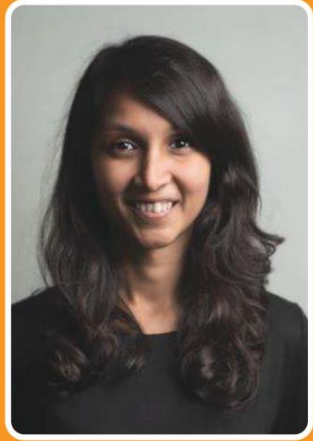
# VSCC Project Changes During the Pandemic

- Drive through and virtual celebration for World Food Day 2020
  - Remote service opportunities (independent)
  - Zoom lecture
- Hybrid celebration for 2021
  - International Speaker (WebX)
  - Multiple service options (in person and virtual)
  - Google Site to manage and promote project details
  - Gather Town for virtual showcase and community partner interaction
  - New LibGuide for Food Research





2021



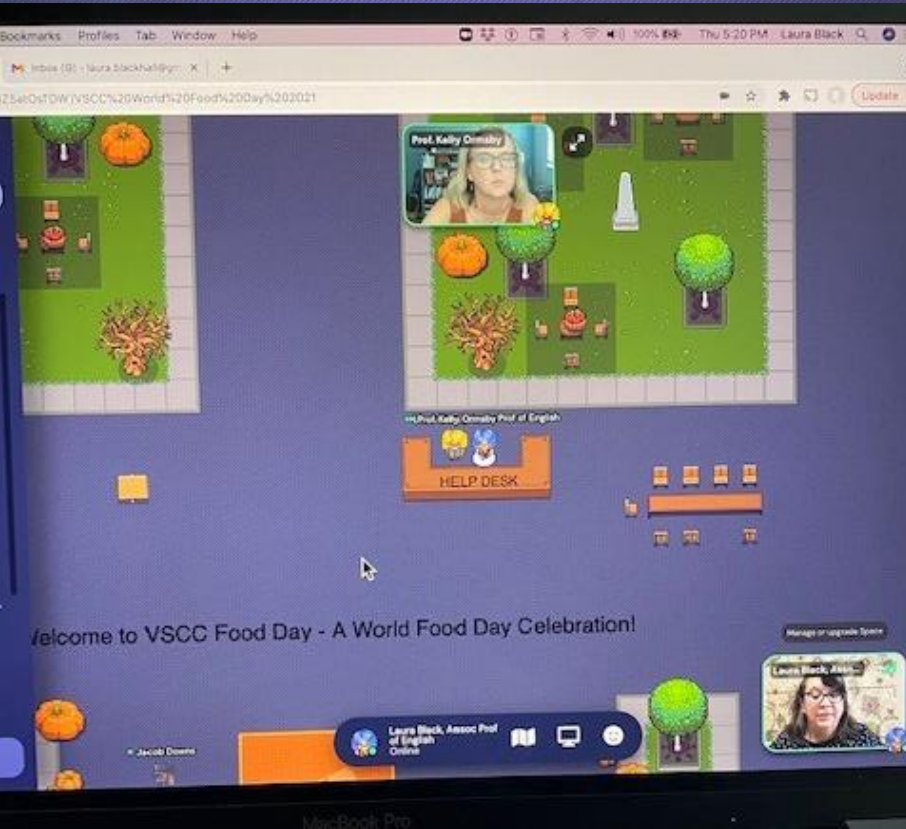
# Jinal Shah

Senior Nutritionist  
with Rujuta Diwekar

TedX Speaker







## New for 2021:

- Virtual meeting space in Gather
- Opportunity to participate and interact in real time from multiple campus and home locations
- See student and community presentations and talk with presenters
- Meet SGA and club representatives, other students, and faculty





# Student Voices: The Gather Town Experience

Everyone loves food, and Food Day was honestly such a cute and interactive way to bring people together over something they love, all the while introducing them to new cultures and ideas. Not to mention, Gather Town was the perfect media to use for it. The platform was easy to navigate and very well put together. I loved the realness of it, for it felt like I was attending and viewing the presentations displayed in person. The guest speakers were also very helpful, as were the directions and notes spread across Gather Town.

From watching, reading, and participating in the presentations to exploring the world of Gather Town, the whole event was so much fun to be a part of. It was a unique experience I never would have thought could be possible and won't be forgetting any time soon. I mean, who else can say they attended their college presentations on an 80's style video game-like platform!? All in all, I would say Food Day at Vol State was a major success for everyone involved, and I hope to participate again next year!

# Project 2: Read Across America



NEA: "Motivate kids to read, bring the joys of reading to students of all ages, and make all children feel valued and welcome"

Increase Student Engagement and Inclusion

Build Skills (CLOs and Career Readiness)



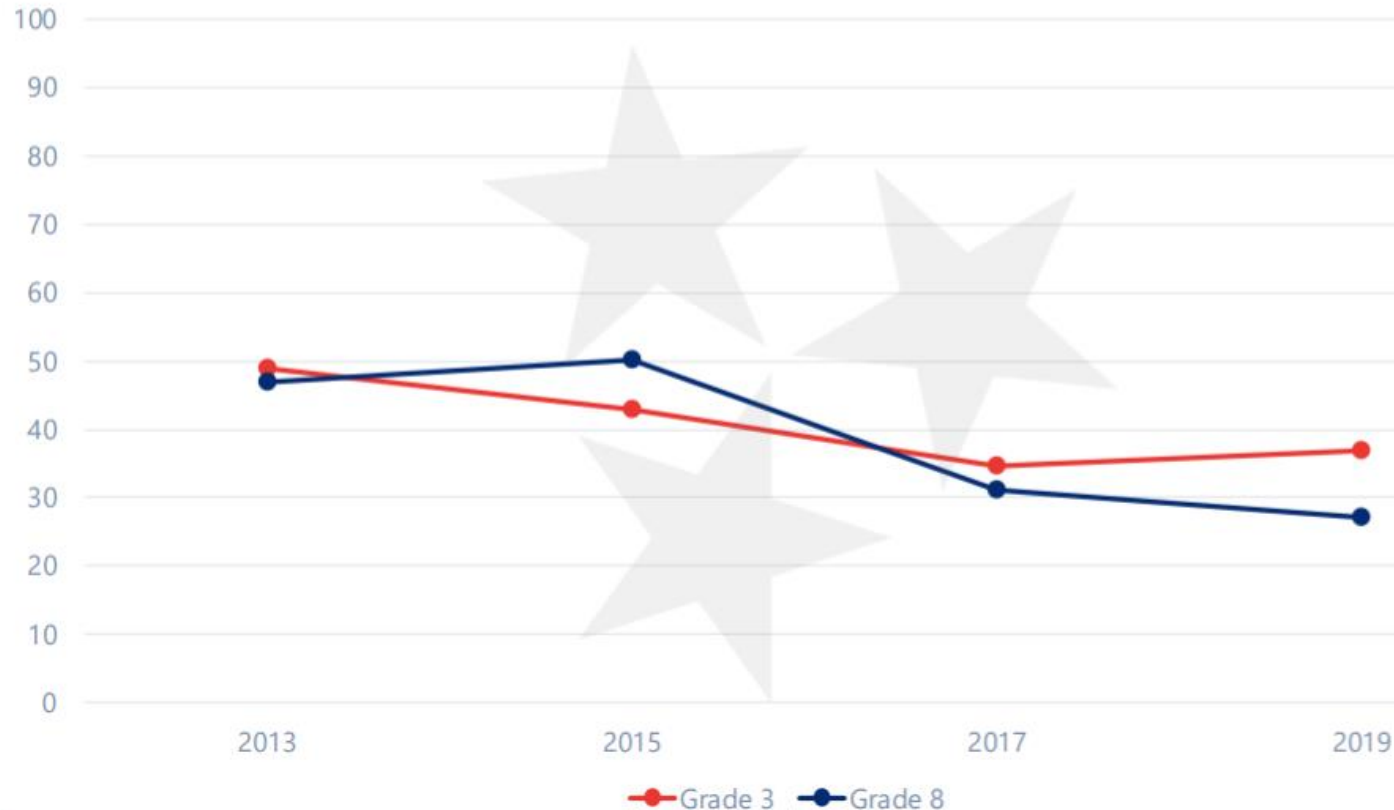


# Literacy in Tennessee

"If a parent cannot read well, it is likely that their child will struggle as well." DeMarrus Miller, Salvation Army (qtd. in *Reflections from the Reading 360 Summit* by Dr. Lisa Coons, October 18, 2021. Tennessee Department of Education.)

# % Students At or Above Proficiency

## Grades 3 & 8 English Language Arts (ELA) (TCAP)



### KEY TAKEAWAY

Not hitting the...



**3<sup>rd</sup>**  
grade

**LITERACY  
PROFICIENCY  
MILESTONE**

— makes it —

**HARDER TO  
CATCH UP &  
SUCCEED**



# Why Reading Proficiency by Grade 3 Matters

Key indicator of future academic success as well as lifelong socioeconomic and health outcomes

*Children reading at grade level are...*



**MORE  
LIKELY  
TO:**

- Graduate from high school
- Enter & complete post-secondary programs
- Remain gainfully employed later in life



**SIGNIFICANTLY  
MORE LIKELY TO:**

Stay on grade level  
over time

**HIGHLY CORRELATED** with high school completion and lifelong socioeconomic and health and wellness outcomes.



*Children not reading at grade level are...*

**4X MORE LIKELY TO DROP  
OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL**

*Negatively impacting short & long-term earning potential*

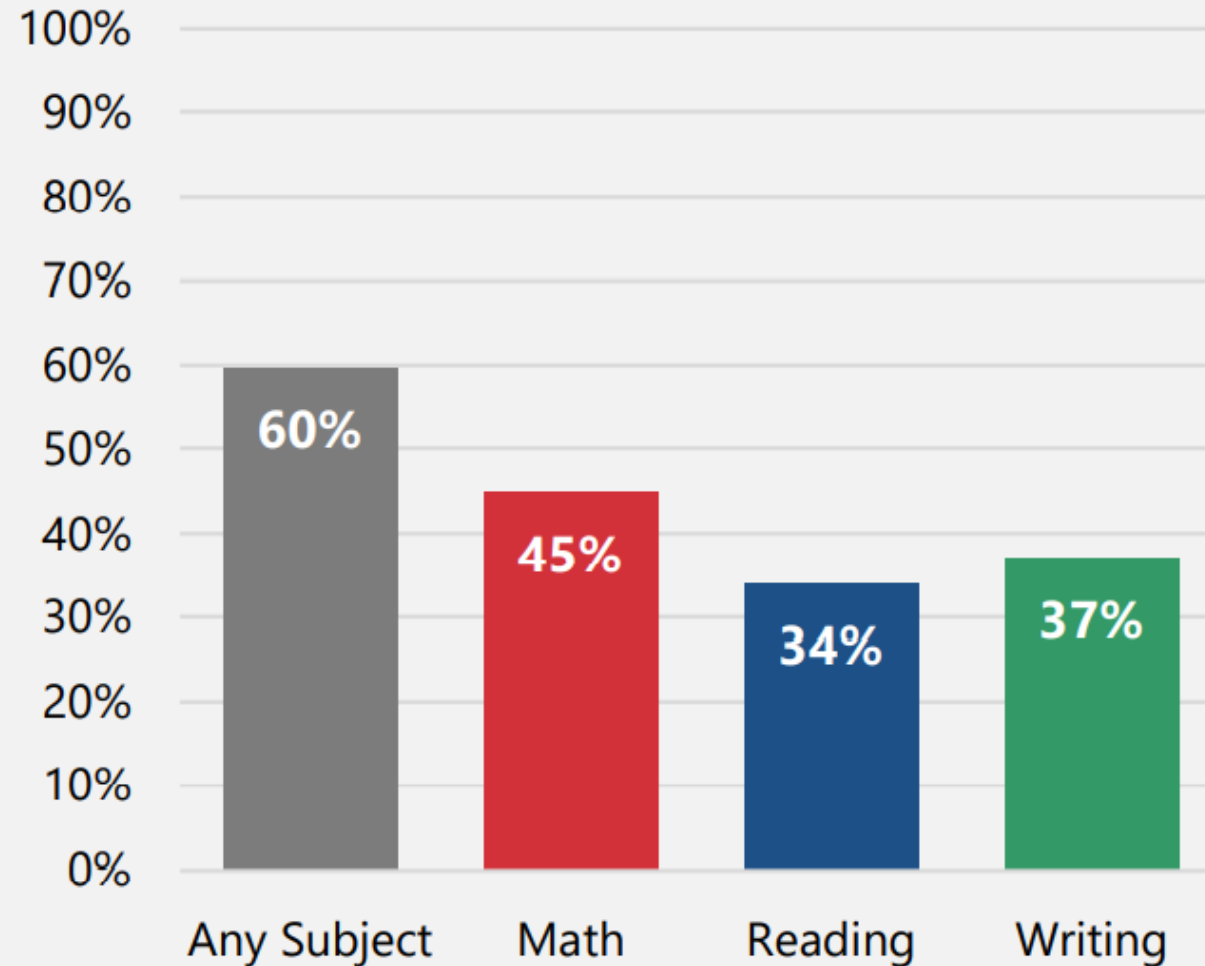
**ASSOCIATED** with higher rates of poverty, not keeping up with medical treatment, pre-teen alcohol use, depression, and teenage pregnancy.

## KEY TAKEAWAY

Low literacy rates negatively impacts our students and our state.



**Figure 14: Percent of First-Time Freshmen  
Placed into Learning Support, 2015-2019**



*Gaining Momentum:  
Refining Corequisite  
Learning Support to Boost  
Student Success in the  
First Year and Beyond*

Tennessee Board of  
Regents,  
November 2021



# DIVERSITY IN CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2018

Percentage of books depicting characters from diverse backgrounds based on the 2018 publishing statistics compiled by the Cooperative Children's Book Center, School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison:  
[ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/pcstats.asp](https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/pcstats.asp)



Illustration by David Huyck, in consultation with Sarah Park Dahlen  
Released under a Creative Commons BY-SA license: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>

The CCBC inventory includes 3,134 books published in 2018. This graphic would not have been possible without the statistics compiled by the CCBC, and the review and feedback we received from Edith Campbell, Molly Beth Griffin, K. T. Herring, Debbie Reese, Ebony Elizabeth Thomas, and Madeline Tyner. Many thanks.

*Data on books by and about Black, Indigenous and People of Color published for children and teens compiled by the Cooperative Children's Book Center, School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison.*  
<https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/literature-resources/ccbc-diversity-statistics/books-by-and-or-about-poc-2018/>

# Equity and Inclusion

[High Impact Practices] are effective for racial and ethnic minorities in particular, who disproportionately experience high and persistent levels of post-secondary attrition...HIPS that have an effect on engagement across racial categories are **service-learning**, undergraduate research, **group assignments**, learning communities, sequence courses, and, especially, having a close faculty mentor. In addition to these factors, **diversity-related course content** is especially effective for racial/ethnic minority engagement.

(Sweat, Jeffery, et. al. "How Does High Impact Practice Predict Student Engagement? A Comparison of White and Minority Students," *International Journal Scholarship of Teaching and Learning*, vol. 7, no. 2, 2013.)





**Critical Thinking/  
Problem Solving**



**Oral/Written  
Communications**



**Leadership**



**Digital  
Technology**



**Teamwork/  
Collaboration**



**Professionalism/  
Work Ethic**



**Career  
Management**



**Global/  
Intercultural Fluency**

# Connecting to Career

<https://www.nacweb.org/career-readiness/competencies/career-readiness-defined/>

# Read Across America Timeline (pre- COVID)

## •2018

•300 Book Donation, Future Educators Club (student group), 15 Volunteers/Students, 2 Community Partners (Head Starts), 5 Faculty, Cross Discipline (Education, English, Reading, and Speech)

## •2019

•500 Book Donation, Future Educators Club (student group) and Sigma Kappa Delta (English Honor Society), 35 VSCC Students, 2 Community Partners (Head Starts), 4 Faculty, Cross Discipline (Education and English); Library special collection purchase for Read Across America (filled gaps in Corretta Scott King Book Awards collection)

## •2020

•200 Book Donation, 35 VSCC Students, 3 Community Partners (Head Starts/Government Childcare), 3 Faculty, Cross Discipline (Education and English); Library purchased over 100 + Belpre Award, Schnieder Family Book Award, and Corretta Scott King Book Award winners to add to the children's literature collection





Pre-pandemic






## Orbit of Challenges to Our Emotional Well Being

Dr. Mays Imad, “‘Ours Is Not a Caravan of Despair’: Trauma-Informed Education in Turbulent Times”  
HIP Statewide Conference, 2021



2021






# Research Guides

## Read Across America: Virtual Storytime

Read Across America is a Thigpen Library initiative (March 1-10, 2021).

Thank You Volunteers: [Virtual Storytime](#) [Read Across America](#) [Read Across America](#) [Read Across America](#)




### Read Across America STORY TIME

#### Read Across America


We are excited to present our featured author and volunteer from Community College English professor T.G. Moore reading her newly published book, *Carolina Zoo Adventure: A Lesson in Love*.

Join us at Thigpen Library and support Carolina Zoo Adventure: A Lesson in Love to take home and share during your family's storytime.



#### Carolina Zoo Adventure

Watch on YouTube




#### Read Out Loud

Watch on YouTube

#### Read Across America: Virtual Storytime

Some may not be aware, but the 1st State Ballerina program is home to many diverse County 11th Grade College students. Thigpen Library is happy to see them on a daily basis. Although it may not be everything we'd like (1st State is virtual), these amazing students come to campus each day.

11th Grade College students have been a HUGE part of our Read Across America program. They've been reading books on campus and are sharing some of these donated books for our virtual storytime. We hope you enjoy!



#### Read Across America: Virtual Storytime

Watch on YouTube

#### Read Across America: Virtual Storytime

Watch on YouTube

### Let's get ready to...

## Read Across America



Learn More: <https://libguides.volstate.edu/RAA>  
Read Across America 2022: First week of March

# 2022

- **Growing the LibGuide:** Research, tips, and tools
- **Book drive:** 2/14-3/4 on the main campus
- **Virtual Storytime:** Students work with instructors to record reading videos to be shared with our service partners
- **Read Across America Read-In:** Virtual story time for VSCC families in Zoom

*Additional Community Groups TBA (student connections)*



# Scaling

- Teaching and Learning Center HIPs Mapping Project
- First Year Experience (FYEX 1030)

Embedded Service-Learning Pilot

- Gateway courses (ex. ENGL 1010 and Learning Support)

Embedded HIPs

# Ideas?



**Please contact us!**

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**Tennessee Service-Learning Consortium:**

<https://www.tbr.edu/student-success/tennessee-service-learning-consortium>